(c) whether the film industry is protesting against shifting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) where next IFFI will be held and its dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The dates of the International Film Festival of India have been changed from 10—20 January to 10—20 October from the IFFI 2001 as the international participation in terms of films and film personalities was not very satisfactory because the dates coincided with Christmas and new year celebrations.

(c) and (d) Initially some newspaper reports appeared in this regard and the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce also sent a letter to the Govenrment. However, the Film Federation of India, which is the apex body of the film industry, have now endorsed the decision of the Government.

(e) The next IFFI is proposed to be held at Bangalore from 10th to 20th October, 2001.

I and B Network for NER

66. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals formulated and target set to ensure that I and B network actually reaches all remote areas of NER;

(b) the basic drawback for which the I and B network did not reach remotest corner of NEP during the last fifty years;

(c) the deficiency of existing infrastructure and plan for its improvement/ upgradation during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) the steps taken to man the various I and B installations in NER for effective operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) (a) The Government has under consideration a proposal to strengthen AIR and Doordarshan coverage in North-Eastern States and to improve the quality and reach of programmes in that region. In the package under consideration, special thrust is proposed to be given to improve the Radio and TV coverage in the rural and remote

areas of the North Eastern States and to broadcast programmes, relevant to the area, in local dialects.

The Press Information Bureau is implementing some special schemes during the Ninth Plan such as, Computerization of the activities of PIB, opening of branch offices of PIB in tribal areas and coordinating and organising of press parties to tribal areas.

During the current Plan period, Directorate of Field Publicity has already opened four new Field Publicity Units in the North East and three more Field offices are proposed.

The Song and Drama Division is operating Sensitive Area and Inner Line Publicity Scheme and Tribal/Desert/Hilly Areas Publicity Scheme in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) to (d) The main reasons for which some of the remote areas of the NER remained uncovered by the media network were non-availability of adequate resources, for providing basic infrastructure, shortage of posts/staff, hilly and difficult terrain and local law and order problems. During the current 9th Plan, it is proposed to strengthen the existing units and open more field offices of the Media Units in the North Eastern Region in order to expand the coverage of areas. The existing facilities will also be put to optimal use.

AIR and Doordarshan are implementing a redeployment scheme to effectively man and operate their installations.

Doordarshan towers for expansion of Communication Services

†67. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to Ministry of Communications to utilise Doordarshan towers for expansion of communication services;

(b) if so, details thereof and whether any primary survey has been conducted in this regard and which towers would be utilised for this task alongwith locations thereof;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi